

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EGEN, ID

SUBJ: PROPOSED TELEGRAM TO NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE

1. IF DEPARTMENT WOULD AGREE I WOULD LIKE TO REVERSE
USUAL PROCEDURE OF TURNING OTHER CHEEK AND SLAP BACK AT
NEWSWEEK STORY OF APRIL 9 CRITICAL OF INDONESIAN IN-
VESTMENT CLIMATE AND THIS EMBASSY, AS BELOW

2. EDITOR NEWSWEEK: IN MY CONSIDERED OPINION, YOUR
GLOOMY STORY IN THE ASIAN EDITION APRIL 9 ON INDONESIAN
INVESTMENT CLIMATE GIVES A DECIDELY WRONG IMPRESSION.
THE INDONESIAN LAWS AND POLICIES WELCOMING FOREIGN IN-
VESTMENT ARE ONLY SIX YEARS OLD. IT IS TRUE THAT PRO-
CEDURES AND COORDINATION BETWEEN MINISTRIES ARE STILL
LESS SMOOTH THAN IS DESIRABLE. BUT INDONESIAN OFFICIALS
ARE AWARE OF THIS, OPEN TO DISCUSSION AND ATTEMPTING TO
MAKE IMPROVEMENTS. FOR SOME MONTHS NOW A SPECIAL COM-
MITTEE, INCLUDING FOREIGN CONSULTANTS, HAS BEEN WORKING
ON A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE INVESTMENT PROCEDURES.
THIS IS BEING DONE AT PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S SPECIAL REQUEST
AND IS EXPECTED TO BE SUBMITTED TO HIM SOON.
MEANWHILE, AMONG THE HUNDREDS OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
INVESTORS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED PROPOSALS FOR INVESTMENT FAR
IN EXCESS OF \$2 BILLION, SUBSTANTIAL PARTS OF WHICH ARE
ALREADY UNDER WAY, AMERICANS LEAD THE JAPANESE, GERMAN,
SINGAPOREAN, HONG KONG, KOREAN AND AUSTRALIAN AND OTHER
INVESTORS.
IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY'S COM-
MERCIAL SECTION HAS PORTIONALLY GREATER FACILITIES TO
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SERVE ITS RELATIVELY FEW BUSINESSMEN HERE THAN WE HAVE TO
SERVE OUR HUNDREDS. WE HAVE RECEIVED MORE VOLUNTARY
LETTERS OF COMMENDATION FROM AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN FOR THE
HELP WE HAVE GIVEN THEM THAN I HAVE SEEN BEFORE IN MY 25
YEARS IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE. I WOULD BE GLAD TO SHOW
THEM TO YOU OR TO MRS. WILLIAMS IF YOU LIKE.
FINALLY, YOU HAVE MUCH LESS FAITH IN THE RESILIENCE
AND THRUST OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN THAN I. FROM
SEOUL AND TOKYO TO SINGAPORE AND JAKARTA ASIAN ENTRE-
PRENEURS ARE ON THE MOVE AND AMERICANS ARE MOVING WITH
THEM. AS LONG AS THERE HAS BEEN AN AMERICA OUR BUSINESS
PEOPLE HAVE SOUGHT OPPORTUNITIES TO TRADE IN ASIA AND I
BELIEVE THEY WILL BE HERE MAKING THEIR MARK WITH OTHERS
LONG AFTER THE TWO DECADES YOU GIVE THEM. SINCERELY,
FRANCIS J. GALBRAITH, AMBASSADOR.

3. IF DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION, REQUEST FORE-
GOING BE TRANSMITTED TO NEWSWEEK HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK.
GALBRAITH

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